REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 25, the independent claims being Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 21, 22 and 25. Claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 21 and 22 have been amended herein. Claim 25 is newly presented herein.

In the Official Action dated September 25, 2003, Claims 1, 3, 13, 15 and 20 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,459,449 (Juen), Claims 6, 12, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Juen '449 patent in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of the Juen '449 patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, that Claims 7 to 10, 17 and 18 are allowed, and that Claims 2 and 5 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The rejections of the remaining claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 1, 4, 13, 21 and 22 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments, and newly presented independent Claim 25 has been added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of

protection commensurate with the disclosure. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel image pickup apparatus for use with a flash apparatus. In one aspect, as recited in independent Claim 1, the image pickup apparatus comprises a control circuit which determines an amount of light generated by the flash apparatus, a color adjusting circuit which controls at least one of hue and a color saturation, and a first color control circuit which controls the color adjusting circuit such that at least one of the hue and the color saturation is corrected responsive to the amount of the flash apparatus generated light determined by the control circuit, independently of hue and/or color saturation control in accordance with white balance.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 4, the image pickup apparatus comprises an illuminance detecting circuit which detects an illuminance of light incident from a subject, a color adjusting circuit which controls at least one of a hue and a color saturation, and a first controlling circuit. The first controlling circuit controls the color adjusting circuit such that at least one of the hue and color saturation is corrected responsive to the illuminance of the light incident from the subject detected by the illuminance detecting circuit, independently of hue and/or color saturation control in accordance with white balance.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 11, the image pickup apparatus comprises a white balance controlling circuit which controls white balance in accordance with at least one of an illuminance of a subject and an amount of light generated by the flash apparatus, a color adjusting circuit which controls at least one of hue and color

saturation, and a color control circuit. The color control circuit controls the color adjusting circuit in accordance with white balance information generated by the white balance controlling circuit, such that when the white balance information varies in response to at least one of the illuminance of light incident from the subject and the amount of light generated by the flash apparatus, the color control circuit controls the color adjusting circuit in accordance with the white balance information and in accordance with the amount of light generated by the flash apparatus, respectively.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 13, the image pickup apparatus comprises a color adjusting circuit and a color control circuit. The color adjusting circuit controls at least one of hue and color saturation. The color control circuit controls the color adjusting circuit such that, when a flash apparatus is used, the color adjusting circuit corrects at least one of the hue and the color saturation responsive to illuminance of light incident from a subject using the flash apparatus independently of hue and/or color saturation control in accordance with white balance.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 21, the image pickup apparatus comprises a color adjusting circuit which controls at least one of hue and color saturation, and a color control circuit for changing the color adjusting circuit such that the color adjusting circuit corrects at least one of hue and color saturation in response to first data when a flash apparatus is used and in response to second data when the flash apparatus is not used.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 22, the image pickup apparatus comprises a color adjusting circuit which controls hue or color saturation in accordance

with first data of a color temperature of a subject when a flash apparatus is not used; and a color control circuit which further controls at least one of hue and the color saturation adjusted by the color adjusting circuit in accordance with second data when the flash apparatus is used.

In yet another aspect, as recited in newly presented independent Claim 25, the image pickup apparatus comprises a color adjusting circuit which controls at least one of hue and color saturation, and a color control circuit for changing the color adjusting circuit such that the color adjusting circuit corrects at least one of hue and color saturation in response to first data when a flash apparatus is used and in response to second data when the flash apparatus is not used, independently of hue and/or color saturation control in accordance with white balance

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

In the subject application, Applicant discloses prior art in which hue and/or color saturation (color chroma saturation) are corrected in accordance with white balance. However, Applicant submits that this disclosure fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Nowhere does Applicant's Admitted Prior Art disclose or suggest the feature where, when a flash apparatus is used, a color adjusting circuit corrects at least one of the hue and the color saturation (color chroma saturation) responsive to the amount of flash apparatus generated light determined by the control circuit, independently of hue and/or color saturation control in accordance with white balance, as disclosed and claimed in

the present application (Claims 1, 4, 13 and 25). Rather, in Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, color control circuit 212 controls the color adjusting circuit 213 according to the white balance correction information output of circuit 212 that relies on equations 1 and 2, that is, hue is corrected merely in accordance with the white balance (see, e.g., page 5, lines 2 to 16). Nor does Applicant's Admitted Prior Art disclose or suggest the feature of color adjusting circuit correcting hue or color saturation in response to first data when a flash is used and in response to second data when a flash is not used, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 21 and 22); Applicant's Admitted Prior Art is devoid of any suggestion of the use of different data sets to control the operation of a color adjusting circuit depending on whether or not a flash is used.

The Juen '449 patent relates to a color reproduction correction device and correction method for an imaging apparatus, and discloses a color reproduction correction device for an imaging apparatus that obtains color signals with a plurality of spectral characteristics. However, Applicant submits that the Juen '449 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. Initially, Applicant submits that the Juen '449 patent discloses substantially the same features as Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in the specification, in which at least one of the hue and the color saturation are corrected in accordance with the white balance. Nowhere is the Juen '449 patent understood to disclose or suggest the feature where, when a flash apparatus is used, a color adjusting circuit corrects at least one of the hue and the color saturation (color chroma saturation) responsive to the amount of flash apparatus generated light determined by the control circuit, independently of hue and/or color

saturation control in accordance with white balance, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 1, 4, 13 and 25). Also, the Juen '449 patent is understood merely to disclose using a white balance detector for color adjustment control; nowhere is the Juen '449 patent understood to disclose or suggest any arrangement in which a control circuit controls a color adjusting circuit responsive to the illuminance of light incident from a subject as detected by an illuminance detection circuit, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claim 4). Further, the Juen '449 patent is understood merely to teach the use of a white balance detector to control color adjustment; nowhere is the Juen '449 patent understood to disclose or suggest the feature where color control of the color adjustment circuit operates according to white balance information and the flash apparatus information, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claim 11). Nor is the Juen '449 patent understood to add anything to Applicant's Admitted Prior Art that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 22 and 25 are allowable over the cited art.

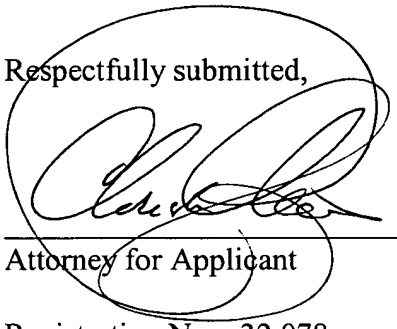
Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 14 to 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 depend from Claims 1, 4, 11 and 13, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in

allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CPW\gmc
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